

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
April 22, 2004

The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
United States House of Representatives
309 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We strongly encourage you to call a Budget Committee hearing in response to yesterday's testimony by Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz before the House Armed Services Committee in which he responded, "*I don't know*," to a question asked by the ranking member of the Budget Committee about the amount of 2004 supplemental appropriations funds obligated to date in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

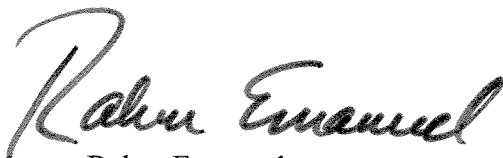
As you know, the United States has committed more than \$120 billion toward the war in Iraq and ongoing reconstruction thus far. It is a sign of disrespect to our troops, and to all U.S. taxpayers, that the second highest ranking Pentagon official cannot answer basic questions about military expenditures in Iraq.

Any failure to account for expenditures and thus provide sufficient funding in Iraq could seriously jeopardize our troops and our mission there. Recent testimony by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, indicated that the mission currently faces a \$4 billion funding shortfall, notwithstanding the \$50 billion omitted from the President's FY 2005 defense budget request for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During the October 16, 2003 House Budget Committee hearing titled "Department of Defense Long-Term Budget Issues," you told the Pentagon's Comptroller, Dr. Dov Zakheim, that the Defense Department would be required to account for military spending in Iraq in the FY 2005 defense budget and that "we are not going to do" a FY 2005 supplemental funding request.

As you made clear in that hearing, it is our responsibility as members of the Committee with jurisdiction over federal spending to ensure that the Pentagon does not imperil our troops by running out of money for their critical equipment and training. We strongly encourage you to call a hearing in the Budget Committee to account for our military expenditures. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our troops have all of the tools and resources that they need to accomplish their mission.

Sincerely,



Rahm Emanuel
Member of Congress



Rosa DeLauro
Member of Congress